

Resources Agency
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Fish and Game
State Coastal Conservancy
Department of Water Resources
State Lands Commission
California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Conservation
Department of Food and Agriculture
Department of Transportation
California Energy Commission
State Water Resources Control Board
California Conservation Corps
California Coastal Commission
Native American Heritage Commission
University of California
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA
National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA
National Park Service
Western Ecological Research Center, USGS
USDA Forest Service
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey

North Coastal Counties Supervisors Association
Sacramento-Mother Lode Regional Association of County Supervisors
Northern California Counties Supervisors Association
San Joaquin Valley Regional Association of County Supervisors
South Central Coast Regional Association of County Supervisors
Central Coast Regional Association of County Supervisors
Regional Council of Rural Counties
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
San Diego Association of Governments
Southern California Association of Governments



FEBRUARY 2006

TO: CBC MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

FROM: MIKE CHRISMAN, CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY;
MIKE POOL, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, CALIFORNIA

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING:
CONSERVATION IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY
APRIL 5-6, 2006 – MERCED, CALIFORNIA

We have the pleasure to announce the upcoming regional meeting of the California Biodiversity Council (CBC) to be held in Merced on Wednesday and Thursday, April 5 and 6, 2006. This two-day event will focus on regional conservation planning strategies as they apply to the Central Valley.

A half-day field trip is scheduled for April 5 so that participants may observe and discuss the Central Valley's grasslands and highlight the cooperative accomplishments of the Central Valley Joint Venture. The field trip will feature wildlife refuges owned and managed by various Council agencies. We will be accompanied by agency and private sector representatives who will discuss the complexities of balancing public land management with the development challenges of California's growing population. This educational field trip will be followed by a dinner at De Angelo's Restaurant in Merced. At the dinner we will have the pleasure to hear UC Merced Chancellor Carol Tomlinson-Keasey speak about the roles for the new UC campus in addressing population growth and natural resource management in the Central Valley. We hope that you will be able to join us for both the field trip and the dinner.

The Biodiversity Council meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, April 6, 2006. The meeting will focus on the existing conservation setting in the Central Valley, which is being heavily influenced by population growth and development as well as social and economic conditions. We will learn about existing agency cooperation in both regional growth management and resource conservation. Lastly, we will discuss potential opportunities for new cooperation in conservation and how Council agencies can best take advantage of these opportunities and ensure a promising future for the Valley.

The meeting agenda and reservation forms are enclosed. We request confirmation of attendance to the field trip, dinner and meeting as well as meal reservations and payment. The deadline for meeting registration is **March 24, 2006**. We have reserved a block of rooms at the Ramada Inn in Merced; please consult the agenda for information on making a reservation. The field trip will depart from the Ramada Inn in Merced at 12:00 noon and box lunches will be available. Please contact Lauren McNees, Communications Coordinator, with any questions (916.445-5845, lauren.mcnees@fire.ca.gov).

Sincerely yours,

Mike Chrisman, CBC Co-Chair
Secretary for Resources
California Resources Agency

Mike Pool, CBC Co-Chair
State Director, California
Bureau of Land Management